

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

1. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication test unit for evaluating the performance of a data link, the test unit comprising:

a rear module;

a front module for controlling the test unit and processing performance information indicative of the performance of the data link; [[and]]

an application module electrically connected and mechanically secured between the rear module and the front module, wherein the application module is coupled to the data link and is configured to provide the performance information to the front module; and

a multi-position foot for positioning the test unit in different orientations, the multi-position foot comprising:

a first pivotable support arm coupled to a first bar having a slotted retainer; and

an adjustment rod extending into the slotted retainer, the adjustment rod movable to different slots of the slotted retainer, wherein the test unit is placed in a different orientation by moving the adjustment rod to a different one of the slots.

2. (Original) The test unit of claim 1, wherein one or more additional application modules is placed between the front module and the rear module.

3. (Original) The test unit of claim 1, wherein the front module has one or more ports for coupling to an external user interface.

4. (Original) The test unit of claim 1, wherein the external user interface is a personal computer.

5. (Original) The test unit of claim 1, wherein the front module has a user interface.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a test unit to obtain performance information of a data communication link, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a back module with a power source;

providing a front module for controlling the test unit and receiving performance information;

selecting an application module adapted for monitoring the performance of one or more data links; [[and]]

stacking the front module, application module, and back module in sequence and electrically connecting and mechanically securing the modules together so that the stacked modules form the test unit; and

providing electrical power from the power source of the back module to the application module.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a multifunction test unit, the system comprising:

a back module having a power supply;

a front module having control logic for controlling the system and processing performance information; and

two or more application modules secured between the back module and the front module wherein each of the application modules is adapted to provide performance information about a different type of communication link, wherein each application module furnishes performance information to the front module, and wherein the power supply of the back module provides electrical power to the each of the application modules.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 7,~~ A system for providing a multifunction test unit, the system comprising:

a back module having a power supply;

a front module having control logic for controlling the system and processing performance information; and

two or more application modules secured between the back module and the front module, wherein each of the application modules is adapted to provide performance information about a different type of communication link, wherein each application module furnishes performance information to the front module,

wherein the back module has a multi-positional foot comprising:

a set of support arms that pivot near the center of the back module;

an adjustment arm for each of the support arms that is pivotally coupled to each of the support arms on one end and has a slotted retainer with multiple slots on the other end; and

a rod secured to the bottom back edge of the back module that is coupled to the slotted retainers wherein a multiple viewing angles are provided by the slot location of the rod within the slotted retainer.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of stacking and latching electronic modules to provide a test apparatus the method comprising the steps of:

- positioning a front module to receive an application module;
- placing a first application module on the front module and electrically coupling the first application module to the front module and then latching the application module to the front module;
- stacking and latching one or more additional application modules to the first application module, thereby increasing the functionality of the test apparatus; [[and]]
- securing a back module to the last application module of the stacking step;
- pivoting a first support arm about a point on the test apparatus, the first support arm having a slotted retainer; and
- moving an adjustment rod to different slots of the slotted retainer such that an orientation of the test apparatus is changed.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein a bus structure between the front module and the back module is connected to each of the application modules.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the bus structure comprises a protocol bus and a processor bus.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the rear module has a rear battery pack that provides electrical power to each of the application modules.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the front module has multiple connectivity ports.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the front module has a display panel.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the display panel is a touch screen.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication test unit for evaluating the performance of a data link, the test unit comprising:

a first module having control logic; and

a plurality of removable application modules stacked on and communicatively coupled to the first module the application modules configured to respectively perform different types of tests on at least one data link, each of the application modules having a rotatable latch that rotates to mate with a respective latch of another of the application modules,

wherein the control logic is configured to receive diagnostic information from each of the application modules and to provide an output indicative of the diagnostic information.

18. (Original) The test unit of claim 17, further comprising a segmented bus passing through each of the application modules, wherein each of the application modules is configured to communicate with the control logic over the segmented bus.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The test unit of claim 18, further comprising~~ A telecommunication test unit for evaluating the performance of a data link, the test unit comprising:

a first module having control logic; and

a plurality of removable application modules stacked on and communicatively coupled to the first module the application modules configured to respectively perform different types of tests on at least one data link,

a segmented bus passing through each of the application modules, wherein each of the application modules is configured to communicate with the control logic over the segmented bus, wherein the control logic is configured to receive diagnostic information from each of the application modules and to provide an output indicative of the diagnostic information, and wherein the test unit further comprises a multi-position foot for positioning the test unit in different orientations, the multi-position foot comprising:

a first support arm coupled to a first bar having a slotted retainer;

a second support arm coupled to a second bar; and

an adjustment rod extending into the slotted retainer and between the first bar and the second bar, the adjustment rod movable to different slots of the slotted retainer, wherein the test unit is placed in a different orientation by moving the adjustment rod to a different one of the slots.

20. (Previously Presented) The test unit of claim 1, wherein the rear module has a battery for providing power to the application module.

21. (Previously Presented) A method for evaluating the performance of data links, comprising the steps of:

providing a telecommunication test unit having an output module;

stacking at least a first application module and a second application module on the output module, each of the first and second application modules removable from the telecommunication test unit;

securing the first application module and the second application module, the securing step comprising the step of rotating a respective latch on each of the application modules until said respective latch mates with another latch on one of the other modules;

testing a first data link via the first application module;

testing a second data link via the second application module; and

outputting from the output module diagnostic information based on each of the testing steps.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of transmitting a portion of the diagnostic information from the second application module to the output module via a segmented bus, the segmented bus having a first segment on the first application module, a second segment on the second application module, and a third segment on the output module.

23. (New) The test unit of claim 1, wherein the multi-position foot further comprises a second pivotable support arm coupled to a second bar, wherein the adjustment rod extends between the first bar and the second bar.

24. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of providing electrical power from the power source to the front module.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of providing electrical power from a power source in the front module to components of the front module.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of providing electrical power from the power source in the front module is based on the connecting step.

27. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the power supply provides electrical power to the front module.

28. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the front module has a power supply that provides electrical power to components of the front module.

29. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of pivoting a second support arm about a point on the test apparatus, the second support arm coupled to a second bar, wherein the adjustment rod extends between the first bar and the second bar.

30. (New) The test unit of claim 17, wherein at least one latch of one of the application modules has a rounded end for mating with a rounded end of another latch.

31. (New) The test unit of claim 30, further comprising a module stacked on one of the application modules and having a power source for providing electrical power to each of the application modules.

32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one latch of one of the application modules has a rounded end for mating with a rounded end of another latch.